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# Rural Information Center

MARCH

UPDATE

1989

National Agricultural Library

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Beltsville, MD 20705

## RIC PROCEEDS WITH ESTABLISHING STATE LIBRARY NETWORK

In February RIC contacted the State Library Directors in the thirty-three states in which the RIC State Coordinators have established the RIC program. Other state library directors will be contacted as soon as the RIC extension network is established in their state.

RIC is establishing this network with the State Libraries with the cooperation and approval of the Rural Library Services Committee of the American Library Association. RIC is asking each library to name a representative from their staff to coordinate with RIC and Extension staff. The library representative will locate, at either the local or state level, information resources that were identified by RIC in response to a request from their respective state.

## RIC WINS FIRST PLACE IN A JOINT EXHIBIT AT THE WORLD AG EXPO

The State Library of Iowa and RIC participated in a joint exhibit for rural economic development at the September 1988 World Ag Expo in Amana, Iowa. The theme of the exhibit was "Library Country". More than 355,000 people attended the conference.

Bill Cochran, Director of Library Development at the State Library, coordinated the exhibit, and Iowa RIC State Coordinator Dan Otto manned the Rural Information Center booth.

The joint project won first place in the category of

Marketing/Community Relations from the Iowa Library Friends Marketing for Excellence Program.

## FORTY FIVE STATES AND GUAM ARE NOW PARTICIPATING IN RIC

The following new RIC State Coordinators have been named: Carmen L. G. Pearson, Guam; Linda Cox, Hawaii; Paul Warner, Kentucky; Janet Meisenbach, Nebraska; Jack Kupcho, New Jersey; Stephen Lilley, North Carolina; Lloyd Hansen, South Dakota; and Delmar Yoder, West Virginia. California has also joined the RIC project and is in the processing of designating a RIC State Coordinator.

## FREE GAO PUBLICATION

*Rural Development: Federal Programs That Focus on Rural America and its Economic Development.* (Publication number GAO/RCED-89-56BR). GAO reviewed all federal programs to determine those that are essentially rural and issued their findings in this January 1989 report. Rural was defined as counties with urban populations of less than 20,000 and rural development-type programs as those that pursue economic development purposes and/or that have an apparent rural focus. USDA had the highest average of program funds going directly to rural counties -- 50 percent.

For additional report information, contact Jim Hedrick, Assistant Director and report contributor, at (202) 475-5708.

The first five copies of this report are free. Additional copies are \$2.00 each. To order, send



A Joint Project of:



Extension  
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(301) 344-2547

complete title and GAO publication number to:

U.S. General Accounting Office  
Post Office Box 6015  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

RIC OUTREACH

• Presentations

Patricia John provided several presentations for librarians interested in RIC activities and services during NAL’s two open house sessions on January 6 and 11. The open houses were scheduled to correspond with the Annual Mid-Winter Conference of the American Library Association held in Washington, D.C.

In February, Patricia John provided an overview

of RIC activities to several USDA guests from the Indonesian Department of Agriculture.

• Workshop

RIC supplied publications and information for the "Library Resources + Economic Developers = Information Exchange" workshop on January 19 in Mankato, MN. Workshop sponsors included the Traverse de Sioux Library System, Minnesota Extension Services, and the Region Nine Development Commission.

• Committee Appointments

Patricia John was appointed to a two year term (1989-1991) as a committee member of the Rural Library Services Committee of the American Library Association.

FY89 RURAL INFORMATION CENTER ANALYSIS

States, Territories, Etc. Submitting Highest Number of Requests

District of Columbia .....	14%
Maryland.....	9%
Wisconsin.....	6%
Texas, Virginia (5% each).....	10%
Montana.....	4%
Alaska, Illinois, Kansas, North Carolina, Washington (3% each) .....	15%
Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah (2% each) .....	28%
All others (21 states, 2 territories, and 3 foreign countries).....	14%

Breakdown of Rural Revitalization Questions

Economic Viability.....	62%
Quality of Life/Natural Resources.....	17%
Local Government Services.....	16%
Leadership/Community Change .....	5%

Affiliation Breakdown

State and County Extension Staff.....	47%
USDA Officials.....	13%
Individuals.....	12%
Universities.....	8%
Community/Rural/Economic Organizations, Businesses (4% each) .....	8%
Federal Officials (non-USDA), Libraries, Public Interest Groups (3% each) .....	9%
Congress, State Officials, Foreign Countries (1% each) .....	3%